

**BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ARTIST SPACE INITIATIVE
ARTIST FACT SHEET #1: HOW TO FIND A STUDIO IN BOSTON**

Introduction

Under the leadership of Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has launched a special initiative designed to address artists' need for space in Boston. Other city agencies are working with us on this important effort: the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Neighborhood Development and the Office of Neighborhood Services among others.

Our long-term goal is the creation of live/work and work only studios that are permanently dedicated to artists. At the same time, we are trying to provide information to artists who are seeking space now. We send out periodic updates related to this issue.

If you would like to receive those updates, you can sign up electronically for the BRA's Artist Database. Go to www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/artist.asp. (If you do not have email, you can call us at 617-918-4246; leave a message with your name, street address including city and zip code, and phone number. We will then enter your name into the same database; and you will be sent updates via the US Mail.)

Fact Sheet #1 is the first in a series that we hope to issue in the coming months. Fact Sheet #1 was developed by Molly Mullahy, an artist and student at Emerson College during an internship at the BRA in the spring of 2002. If you have information to add to this Fact Sheet or feedback to offer, please email it to susan.hartnett.bra@ci.boston.ma.us or, if you do not have email, leave a message at 617-918-4246.

PLACES WHERE ARTISTS RENT STUDIO SPACE IN BOSTON

Boston Center for the Arts

Contact: Michelle Baxter, 617-426-5000 mbaxter@bca.online.com

South End. 50 work only studios and 8 live-work c. \$8sf / 80sf – 1000sf. Application process includes peer review. There is a waiting list.

First Highland Management

Contact: David Pizotti, 617-361-9909

Hyde Park. 10 shared work only studios c. \$6/sf + \$1.30/sf for common room, maintenance, security deposit. c. 1850sf

Fort Point Artist Community, Inc. (FPAC)

617- 423-4299, www.fortpointarts.org

Fort Point. FPAC Studio Listing Book is available at the Fort Point Office at 300 Summer Street, Mezzanine Level, on Saturdays from 12:00-5:00pm for a \$2 donation. Spaces are located in the Fort Point and surrounding area, they vary in size and price and change often.

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GTI Properties

Contact: John Kiger, 617-451-5942

South End on Harrison Avenue and Waltham Street. Work only / \$12sf / includes heat and electricity. c. 500sf+ First month rent plus security deposit.

Home Inc./Bates Resource Center

Contact: Alan Michel, 617-266-1386

731 Harrison Avenue, South End. Work only studios. c. \$8-16/sf. Utilities included. Various sizes. On site parking available. There is a waiting list.

Humphries Street Studios

Contact: Joe Wheelwright, 617-298-8922

Uphams Corner in Dorchester. 22 work-only now under construction. c.\$8-\$10sf. c. 200sf-2000sf. First month rent plus security deposit. There is a waiting list.

Keen Development Corporation: Walter Baker Lofts

Contact: Cory Fellows, 617-661-9100, cory@keencorp.com

Lower Mills in Dorchester. 13 live-work units. c. \$15.00sf. including utilities c. 600sf-1000sf. Income restrictions. Call for more information on how to apply/get on waiting list.

Sasser Real-Estate Group: Diablo Glass and Metals: Terrace Street Studios

Contact: Anne P. Sasser, 617-445-5538

Mission Hill. 22 work only units. c. \$250-1500 including utilities; c.80sf - 1200sf. First and last month rent plus security deposit. Access to onsite equipment for glass blowing and metal working for hourly rate.

Stanton and Tierney Real Estate

Contact: David Vieira/ 781-446-7889 / djvhp@msn.com

Hyde Park. Work only studios. c.800sf-3000sf c.\$10sf First and last month rent plus security deposit. No realtor fee. Utilities vary.

Yukon Company

Contact: Dan Yukon, 617-593-3958

Hyde Park. c. \$7-\$10sf. c. 500sf-3000sf. Other costs/utilities vary per space.

ADDITIONAL TIPS...

Visit these web sites:

Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (Boston): www.cityofboston.com/arts/cultaff7.asp

Boston Dance Alliance: www.bostondancealliance.org

Fort Point web site: www.egroups.com/group/fort_point_artists

Somerville Arts Council: www.somervilleartscouncil.org

Cambridge Arts Council: www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CAC/

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Check public information bulletin boards at art stores, local art schools, and arts organizations. Participate in Open Studios; look for postings in various buildings.

ONE LAST NOTE: If you think you might want to buy a space...

Not every artist can or wants to buy property but some artists have expressed interest in learning more about the process. Sometimes artists buy and develop a building as a cooperative as was the case when the Fort Point Arts Community Inc. (FPAC) developed 300 Summer Street and 249 A Street in Fort Point. Sometimes non-profit and/or commercial developers offers spaces inside larger projects like condominiums described above.

There are special workshops offered by the City of Boston and non-profits that can help artists get ready to buy property. Artists who have participated in such workshops have reported that these workshops are very helpful. The City of Boston offers workshops called "Homebuying 101." These workshops are free and are offered in locations throughout Boston. You can get a current schedule of workshops by calling the Boston Home Center (part of the Department of Neighborhood Development) at 617-635-HOME or by stopping by the Boston Home Center at 26 Court Street (near the Government Center T stop). Community-based organizations like Tent City offer workshops too. Sometimes a first-time homeowner workshop is a requirement for people seeking to purchase affordable units.

Updated 6-2002
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